Application No. 09/955,415 Filed: September 18, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2837

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 16, 22 and 24 have been amended, and claims 5,

15, 17, 20-21, 23 and 25-37 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4,

6-14, 16, 18-19, 22 and 24 are pending.

In the Office Action, various claims were rejected in view of

Sato and Burdenko references, and various other claims

including claims 5, 17 and 23 were indicated to be allowable.

Independent claims 1, 16 and 22 have been amended to include the

features of allowable dependent claims 5, 17 and 23 respectively,

which have all been cancelled. Other claims have been canceled or

amended such that all the dependent claims now depend from an

allowable independent claim. In view of these amendments, it is

believed that all the pending claims are now allowable.

Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is

encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any

matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

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Attorney for applicant is also <u>resubmitting</u> at this time an executed Revocation of Power Appointment of New Attorney. Attorney for Applicant kindly requests that the <u>mailing address for all future correspondence be changed</u> as indicated in said document.

Respectfully submitted,
MARC BERNARD ET AL.

James F Thompson

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